

**American Literature  
Summer Reading 2022**

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“Optimism is a self-filling prophesy.”  
-Jeannette Walls

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Welcome to English III Honors! Next year, we will explore the American voice through our study of diverse American Literature. Where better to begin than with a memoir, a genre that can't help but ooze with voice.

This summer, your task is to **read and annotate *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls**. What do I mean by annotation? Marking/highlighting significant quotations as you read. I would also tag specific pages that jump out to you as important. This will come in handy for your accompanying assignment.

<i>The Glass Castle</i>	ISBN-10: 9780743247542	Amazon: \$7.79
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\*It's imperative that each student orders the correct edition of the book so we all have the same page number in discussion. Please copy and paste the complete ISBN Number into the Amazon search bar and it will take you to the correct Amazon Link. Note that every ISBN is the paperback version.

Once you have finished Walls' memoir, you must then **prepare for our Socratic Discussion** that will take place the first week of school. To prepare, please answer the ten short answer questions attached. Read the directions fully and be sure to follow all requirements. You will be graded on your written work as well as your discussion points. More on that in the fall.

I look forward to getting to know all of you in August. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [vscarborough@lowcountryprep.org](mailto:vscarborough@lowcountryprep.org).

Until then,

Ms. Scarborough

*The Glass Castle*  
Socratic Seminar Questions

**Consider these open ended questions related to *The Glass Castle*. These questions do not have right or wrong answers. They are intended to spark discussion and introduce participants to new ideas. Please answer each question based on your own beliefs. Present these beliefs as fact in your argument. Support your beliefs with examples from the text, the world, and your own life. These answers must be typed in MLA Formatting and must be a paragraph in length. Each response must have at least one quotation from the text integrated and cited. Mechanics matter. Evidence matters. Creativity matters. Know your answers so you can discuss confidently in class.**

1. Discuss how the Walls children are far more mature, responsible, reliable, and sensible than their parents. They seem to protect and take care of themselves, each other, and even their parents. And yet, according to the law, they are underage, and therefore dependent on their parents. In your opinion, is it time to examine children's rights? Should some children be granted more rights at an earlier age?
2. The first story Jeannette tells of her childhood is that of her burning herself severely at age three, and her father dramatically takes her from the hospital saying softly: "You're safe now" (14). Why do you think she opens with that story, and how does it set the stage for the rest of the memoir?
3. Rose Mary's dream is to be an artist and she spends all of her time and the little money the family has on art supplies. Whenever the family moves, her paints and canvases move too. When the family tours Welch, a rundown city with despondent people, Rose Mary sees the bright side – she will be the only artist around. She never gives up on her dream. Is there a point when it is time for one to give up one's dream? If so, what is that point?
4. In your opinion, could a "stronger-willed woman" control Rex? Is that a sexist question to ask? Think about Rose Mary and her character traits.
5. Jeannette describes the squalor she and her family lived in as the following: hunger, poverty, garbage, and lack of basic necessities. On the other hand, she describes the rich, intellectual world her parents imparted, such as: discussions of geology, math, literature, and art. In light of the fact that three out of the four Walls children became successful, productive members of society, what do you think is more important to children's development: comfortable living conditions or an enriching intellectual environment?
6. Everyone on Little Hobart Street in Welch is poor and "everyone grudgingly accepted some form of public aid" (159). The Walls, however, refused any kind of help, although they were the poorest family on the street. Jeannette confides, "Mom and Dad never applied for welfare or food stamps, and they always refused charity" (159). Why did the parents refuse any help? Should they have taken food stamps at least? Is it more important to have pride or have food? Did the refusal of food stamps and charity contribute to the children's ultimate independence and self-motivation?

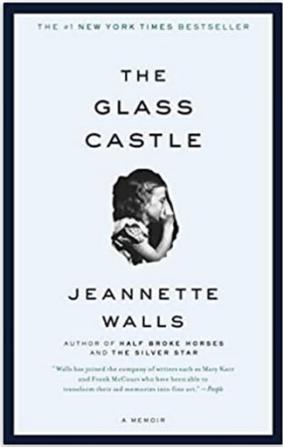
7. Who said the quote, “No one owns the stars” (40). What does this quote mean and why is it significant to the story?

8. In college, Jeannette is singled out by a professor for not understanding the plight of homeless people; instead of defending herself, she keeps quiet. Why do you think she does this?

9. Discuss the following quote: “. . . they say drunks didn't remember their rampages, so if you cleaned up after them, they'd think nothing happened" (138). Who said this quote and how does it relate to the rest of the text? Go into detail. How would the story be different if Rex wasn't an alcoholic?

10. What does Rex mean when he says, “These cities will kill you” (32). Explain his viewpoint on city life, how that affected how he raised his children, and how that viewpoint changed. What are your opinions on big cities and how they change people?

## What Should My Copy of the Text Look Like?



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by Jeannette Walls (Author)

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Times New Roman  
12-pt. Font  
Double Spaced Throughout  
Last Name & Page # Header  
Remember that Titles of Books are *Italicized*

## What Yours Should Look Like

Last Name 1

Your Name

Vannah Tester

English III Honors

1 August 2020

*The Glass Castle*  
Socratic Seminar Responses

1.